

SURREY HEATH LOCAL COMMITTEE

DATE: 25 FEBRUARY 2021
SUBJECT: WRITTEN MEMBER QUESTIONS
DIVISION: SURREY HEATH

Question 1 – from County Councillor Mike Goodman

The A30 is the busiest 'A Road' in Surrey Heath and residents have continuously voiced their concern about road speeds and safety, particularly from the Waitrose traffic lights to the BP garage. There has recently been calls to reduce the speed to 30 mph to make the road safer. I understand how challenging this would be to deliver, the road is a part of Surrey's Strategic Priority Network and is unlikely to be supported by the Police, SCC highways or even Highways England.

What I would ask the Local Area committee to support is making the A30 an average speed camera area. The actual extent of the cameras can be decided by highways.

The view of installing average speed cameras in Surrey has changed and highways and the Police are now more favourable to using these to control speed and improve safety. Although average speeds may show compliance it is those motorist that consistently drive well above the limit that makes the road dangerous.

Background

In early 2019 Duncan Knox responded to my request to instal average speed cameras along the A30 ' We measured speeds further up the road using a device mounted on lamp column number 90 outside "Jacks" Fish and Chips restaurant in September 2014. This showed that the average mean speed was 30 mph southwest bound and 33 mph northeast bound. Therefore, the existing speeds were well within the 40 mph speed limit'.

"Therefore, we do not have any plans to introduce speed cameras at this site because these are reserved for the very worst collision hotspots where endemic speeding has been confirmed through surveys, and where there has been a serious history of collisions.'

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Later in 2019 a further speed survey was undertaken in the section of London Road between its junctions with Yaverland Drive and the High Street. This also indicated a good level of compliance with the 40mph speed limit with an average speed of 32mph recorded.

Despite this background information and I would ask the Committee to support highways relooking at this issue and at the same time consider if part of the road could be made 30 mph. Once completed bring back their findings to a future LAC meeting.

Answer

The introduction of fixed speed cameras would only be considered at locations in Surrey with the poorest safety records where there have been a continuing history of personal injury collisions, where speeds have been measured and found to be excessive, and where the criteria contained within national guidance are met. In response to a previous request in 2019 for the introduction of fixed speed cameras along the A30 London Road in Bagshot, the road was assessed as not meeting these criteria and it was confirmed that there were no plans to introduce speed cameras at that time.

A petition, which remains open online and continues to gather signatures, has been received from residents requesting the introduction of a 30mph speed limit along the A30 London Road through Bagshot together with the installation of speed cameras. A detailed response to the petition is due to be presented at the meeting of the Surrey Heath Local Committee scheduled for 10 June 2021. An updated assessment into the possible introduction of fixed speed cameras will be undertaken and the findings will be included within this response.